

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099403

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:EA SUMMARY FOR MAY 2

1. KOREAN REACTION TO ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO INDUCE AMBASSADOR
HAHM TO DEFECT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT THE KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS HAS
RESPONDED IN VERY STRONG EDITORIAL TERMS TO THE APRIL 28
"REVELATION" THAT JUSTICE PROSECUTOR PAUL MICHEL HAD URGED
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. HAHM PYONG-CHUN TO DEFECT.
EMBASSY SEOUL
COMMENTS THAT IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFI-
CERS, SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIALS HAVE TENDED TO KEEP THE MATTER
IN PERSPECTIVE, NOTING THAT IT WAS AN UNAUTHORIZED ACT BY
ONE USG OFFICIAL. THE FOLLOWING ANSWER WAS PROVIDED AS
PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE MAY 2 NOON PRESS BRIEFING, BUT WAS
NOT USED:

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ANSWER: QUOTE: QUITE OBVIOUSLY, NO OFFER OF ASYLUM WAS
CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR HAHM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OR
ANY OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY. AMBASSADOR HAHM, HOWEVER,
COMPLAINED THAT SUCH AN OFFER WAS INDIRECTLY MADE AS A
RESULT OF A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH A PRIVATE ACQUAINT-
ANCE. WHEN AMBASSADOR HAHM RAISED THIS MATTER WITH UNDER

SECRETARY HABIB IN LATE MARCH, MR. HABIB ASSERTED THAT THE
USG OF COURSE HAD MADE NO SUCH OFFER AND HE WAS SORRY THAT
THE AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED THIS IMPRESSION, WHICH WAS
OBVIOUSLY A MISUNDERSTANDING. UNQUOTE

2. SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT APRIL 29-30 KOREAN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS OPENED A PANDORA'S BOX OF MAJOR
AND MINOR CRITICISM OF CURRENT ISSUES WITH THE OPPOSITION
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY INTRODUCING HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
AND ALL MAJOR PARTIES, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT PARTY,
AIRING GRIEVANCES ABOUT THE U.S./ROK RELATIONSHIP. WHEN
AN NDP ASSEMBLYMAN ASKED "IF IT WERE NOT IN THE ROK
INTEREST TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH
THE U.S. WHOSE PRESIDENT EXPRESSES SO MUCH CONCERN ABOUT
THE ISSUE," PRIME MINISTER CHOE RESPONDED THAT SUCH AN
ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN OPEN DEBATE AND ADDED THE
USUAL CAVEAT THAT IT IS IMPROPER FOR ANY COUNTRY TO MEDDLE
IN ANOTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NEVERTHELESS, NDP ASSEMBLY-
MEN CONTINUED A STRONG ATTACK ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT.

RESPONDING TO A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A
VISIT BY THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE TO PROBE HUMAN RIGHTS
MATTERS WOULD BE WELCOME, FOREIGN MINISTER PAK SAID THAT
SUCH A SUBCOMMITTEE COULD NOT DO WHAT IT PLEASED IN KOREA,
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO INTERROGATION AND
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THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR SOUTH KOREAN CITIZENS TO
COMPLY WITH REQUESTS TO SEE SUCH A SUBCOMMITTEE.

3. SOUTH KOREANS OUTRAGED BY JAPANESE FAILURE TO PASS
CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT SOUTH KOREA IS OUTRAGED BY THE
FAILURE OF THE JAPANESE DIET TO RATIFY THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF AGREEMENT AS SCHEDULED ON APRIL 28. THE PRIME
MINISTER AND OTHER CABINET MINISTERS SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY
APRIL 29 ANSWERING ANGRY DENUNCIATIONS FROM ALL PARTIES IN
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. A SPATE OF EDITORIALS IN THE
VERNACULAR PRESS HAVE DENOUNCED THE "JAPANESE BETRAYAL."

4. CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK ON TIMOR AND
HUMAN RIGHTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

AMBASSADOR NEWSOM, IN AN APRIL 30 MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER MALIK, ASKED MALIK WHAT REACTIONS HE HAS BEEN

HEARING ABOUT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S AND CODEL WOLFF'S CONVERSATIONS WITH INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS

CONCERNING TIMOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS. MALIK SAID THE RESULTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO TIMOR HAD PLEASED PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND HAD REASSURED INDONESIAN MILITARY LEADERS REGARDING THE VALUE OF "AN OPEN DOOR TO TIMOR." HE BELIEVED THAT U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE TIMOR RELIEF EFFORT COULD BE ARRANGED.

5. INDONESIA GENERAL ELECTION (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EMBASSY JAKARTA REPORTS ON THE BASIS OF A SAMPLE OF 200 JAKARTA PRECINCTS THAT VOTING ON MAY 2 WAS CALM AND ORDERLY. OFFICIAL VOTING PROCEDURES WERE CAREFULLY FOLLOWED, VOTERS WERE RELAXED, AND BALLOTS WERE COUNTED IN FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC. THE OVERALL MOOD WAS ONE OF CALM
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COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIC DUTY. LATE ON ELECTION DAY, THE ELECTION BOARD ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THAT EVENING WOULD BE POSTPONED FOR A DAY OR TWO. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS "UNFORTUNATE LAST-MINUTE DECISION" WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE EVEN MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HONESTY AND VALIDITY OF THE VOTE REPORTING SYSTEM.

6. MINDANAO NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN (CONFIDENTIAL)

EMBASSY MANILA REPORTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE/MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATION BROKE DOWN APRIL 30. BOTH SIDES CLAIM THE OTHER TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO END THE TALKS. THE IMPASSE CAME ON FAMILIAR ISSUES, WITH THE IC/MNLF INSISTING ON A 13-PROVINCE AUTONOMOUS REGION AND CLAIMING THAT THE APRIL 17 REFERENDUM VIOLATED THE EARLIER TRIPOLI AGREEMENT AND THE MARCOS/QADHAFI "FORMULA" OF MARCH 18-19.

BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE CEASEFIRE WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THUS FAR THE EMBASSY HAS NOT HEARD OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT IT IS SOMEWHAT REASSURING THAT BOTH SIDES SEEM ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE THE CEASEFIRE, BUT A SITUATION NOW EXISTS WHERE ACCIDENT OR MISCALCULATION COULD RESULT IN A SHARP UPTURN IN COMMUNAL VIOLENCE. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF EITHER SIDE YIELDED TO THE TEMPTATION TO ATTEMPT A SHOW OF FORCE BEFORE THE UPCOMING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, WHERE THE NEXT STAGE OF THE DIPLOMATIC SCENARIO WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE.

7. ONE CHINESE VIEW OF RECENT CODEL VISITS TO CHINA AND
TAIWAN (CONFIDENTIAL)

A NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY REPORTER RECENTLY EXPRESSED INDIG-
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NATION TO A CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG OFFICER OVER
RECENT SIMULTANEOUS CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO CHINA AND
TAIWAN. THE REPORTER SAID THAT THE SIMULTANEOUS VISITS
SMACKED OF A U.S. "BALANCING ACT WITH REGARD TO TWO
CHINAS." THE REPORTER DID NOT SEEM TO ACCEPT THE
CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER'S EXPLANATION ABOUT THE INDEPEND-
ENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS FROM EXECUTIVE CONTROL.

8. VIETNAMESE STATEMENT IN TOKYO (UNCLASSIFIED)

TWO FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONGRESSMEN (ONE OF WHOM
SERVED UNDER BOTH THE THIEU AND THE COMMUNIST REGIMES) SAID
IN AN APRIL 29 TOKYO PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE COMMUNIST
REGIME HAS EXECUTED MANY FORMER SAIGON OFFICIALS AND IS
HOLDING AT LEAST 200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS.

9. CODEL WOLFF-EAST TIMOR AID (UNCLASSIFIED)

FOLLOWING CODEL WOLFF'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE
POSSIBILITY OF PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS (PVO'S)
WORKING IN EAST TIMOR, EMBASSY JAKARTA HAS RECEIVED
APPROVAL FROM HIGH INDONESIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO
PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. MILITARY AUTHORITIES CAUTIONED
THAT CONDITIONS MIGHT NOT PERMIT SUCH AN ACTIVITY UNTIL
LATER THIS YEAR, BUT AGREED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE
PRECISE SUGGESTIONS TO STUDY.

AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAS REQUESTED A.I.D. TO DETERMINE THE
INTEREST OF APPROPRIATE PVO'S AND AUTHORIZE HIM TO APPROACH
THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE WOULD PLAN TO GIVE THE FOREIGN
OFFICE SUCH SPECIFIC DETAILS AS PVO'S MIGHT WISH TO GIVE
BUT WOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT, ONCE THE GOI APPROVES SUCH
ASSISTANCE IN PRINCIPLE, LOCAL PVO REPRESENTATIVES WOULD
WORK OUT PROGRAMS DIRECTLY WITH APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS.

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